(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Difference in estimates of imports, as well as exports, between DGCI&S and those of RBI has been there due to primarily source of data and coverage. To reconcile these, RBI had set up a Technical Group on Reconciling Balance of Payments and DGCI&S data on Merchandise trade. The Group has already submitted an Interim Report to the RBI and RBI have accepted the interim recommendations.

Steady Increase in Country's Exports

5868. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that exports from the country are steadily increasing;

(b) if so, the rate of increase of exports during the last three years;

(c) whether it is also a fact that our exporters are not realising full value from their exports whereas importers of those items are selling them at a high price;

(d) whether it is a fact that the country's exports suffer a lot due to the fact that they are unbranded and due to absence of chain of marketing outlets in the importing countries; and

(e) if so, waht steps are under consideration of Government in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rates of increase of exports in US Dollar terms during the last three years have been:

	% *Increase*
1992-93	3.8
1993-94	20.0
1994-95 (P)	18.3

P=Provisional.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Government is making all efforts to promote new markets and products through Market Development Assistance and exhorts the trades and industry to build Indian brand names.

Per Capita Consumption of Foodgrains

5869. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that per capita consumption of foodgrains dipped from 510 gram in 1991 to 465 gram in 1993, whereas the stocks of foodgrains of Government swolled from 20.8 mt. to 26.35 mt. during the said period;

(b) whether it is also a fact that between December, 1991 and February 1994, price of cheaper grains at ration shops went up more than those for the costlier ones and the off-take of wheat from PDS during 1993-94 declines to half as compared to 1991-92; and

(c) reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) The per capita availability of foodgrains (cereals & pulses) based on net production after taking into account 12.5% for feed, seed and westage from the gross production was about 500 gram in 1991 against about 487 grams in 1993.

Comsumption of foodgrains depends on various factors such as varying pattern of consumption, availability of different foods including fish, mutton, eggs, fruits

and vegetables production and price beheviour etc. Hence there is no standard for determining the fixed per capita consumption of foodgrains.

The stocks with the Public agencies are built up by the Government under price support operation i.e. procurement of wheat and paddy at Minimum Support Price and levy rice from the traders/millers. The procurement of foodgrains (rice & wheat) per year on an average range from 15—20% of the production. The public stocks varies from year to year on various reasons such as production, procurement, off-take, for PDS/RPDS and local availability and open market prices etc.

The Central Issue Price at which the Government supplies the foodgrains from the Public Stocks for PDS/RPDS etc. are uniform throughout the country and are less than the open market prices. The off-take of wheat under PDS/RPDS declined during 1993-94 due to increases in production of foodgrains from 179.48 milion MTs in the crop year 1992-93 (July—June) to 182.12 million MTs in 1993-94 as against 168.38 million MTs produced in 1991-92. The increase in the production from 1992-93 onwards had stabilised the local availability.

PDS—Public distribution System
RPDS—Revamped Public Distribution System.

Hemavathy Cooperative Sugar Factory, Karnataka

5870. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to expand Hemavathy Cooperative Sugar Factory, Hassan in Karnataka State from 1200 tonnes to 2500 tonnes a year is pending clearance from Central Government; if so, the time since when it is pending;

(b) the reasons for which it has not been cleared; and

(c) the time by when it is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) A proposal of M/s. Hemavathy Sahakara Sakkare Karkhane Ltd., Srinivasapura, Distt. Hassan (Karnataka) for effecting substantial expansion in capacity from 1250 tonnes per day to 2500 tonnes per day was received on 3.12.1993 through the Department of Industrial Development, Ministry of Industry.

The Central Government is at present reviewing the licensing policy for sugar industry. A decision on the pending applications for grant of letters of intent for setting up of new sugar mills/expansions of the existing units would be taken thereafter.

Licenses for setting up of Sugar Factories in Karnataka

5871. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government have taken a decision to issue lincenses for setting up of nine sugar factories in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details of the decision taken;

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, the reasons for the delay; and

(d) the time since when these projects are pending clearance by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (d) 69 proposals have been received through the Department of Industrial Development, Ministry of Industry for the establishment of new sugar factories in the State of Karnataka, upto 31.1.95. Of these, 60 proposals have been considered by the Screening Committee of the Ministry of Food and the Licensing Committee of the Ministry of Industry. Thereafter, 5 letters of intent